

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 97-11-24**

Date Prepared: November 20, 1997

For Work Week Commencing: November 24, 1997

Business Meeting Date & Time: November 24, 1997, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, placed on the state electronic bulletin board, and posted to the PSC's world wide web site at <http://www.psc.mt.gov>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission Secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. Docket L-97.1-RUL - Finalize SB396 rules, discuss related matters as necessary, action or direction as required (11/24/97)
2. Lone Mountain Springs Docket D97.8.140 - Discuss and act on draft final order (11/24/97)
3. MPC/DNRC, YELP, CELP Complaints Dockets D97.8.143, D97.7.129, and D97.7.127 - Discuss motions for reconsideration and petitions for declaratory ruling (11/24/97)
4. Docket D97.11.223 - Proposed Order re: Lifeline Program for Low-income Telephone Customers - Discuss increased federal support for Lifeline and obtain Commission approval to issue proposed order (11/24/97)
5. PSC toll-free number for electric/gas competition questions - Obtain Commission direction regarding setting up a toll-free number for consumer questions about electric/gas competition issues (11/24/97)
6. Montana Tel-Net/USWC Docket D97.7.135 - Discuss USWC's waiver and motion for reconsideration (11/24/97)

7. Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Docket D97.2.18 - Discuss requests for waivers and permanent designation of ETCs (11/24/97)
8. Montana Wireless/USWC Docket D97.9.168 - Discuss and vote on draft order approving interconnection agreement (11/24/97)
9. AT&T/USWC Docket D96.11.200 - Discuss AT&T's letter asking for leave to file briefs on the Eighth Circuit Court's decision vacating the FCC rule that required ILECs to offer unbundled network elements on a combined basis (11/24/97)
10. Universal Service Cost Model Docket D97.9.167 - Discuss FCC filing to support an extension of time for choosing a cost model (11/24/97)
11. Letter to initiate meeting - To approve a letter to Montana LECs initiating a meeting to discuss fraudulent billing (11/25/97)
12. MPC Docket D96.2.22 - Discuss and act on draft order on reconsideration, other matters as necessary (11/25/97)
13. MPC Docket D97.11.212 - Discussion and action as necessary on interim order (11/25/97)
14. FCC NPRM on Separations Reform - Discuss filing comments in response to the FCC's NPRM on Separations Reform (11/25/97)
15. ISDN Docket D96.7.121 - Discuss USWC's motion to compel data responses from MCI (11/25/97)
16. Sprint/USWC Docket D97.8.160 - Review draft final order and vote on approval of the agreement (11/25/97)
17. Mid-Rivers/USWC Docket D97.10.208 - Discuss draft order approving amendment (11/25/97)
18. Weekly Meeting - Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. MDU/CULBERTSON PROPANE/MILLER OIL - Docket D97.10.187 (Eric)

On October 10, 1997, MDU filed an application for approval of the sale and transfer of the assets and operating responsibilities of the propane system in Culbertson, Montana to Miller Oil Company. On October 22, 1997, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing. Protests or requests for hearing were due November 8, 1997. No protests or requests for hearing were received. A Final Order approving the sale has been drafted.

2. MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORP. - Docket N97.11.213 (Nina)

On November 7, 1997, MCI Telecommunications Corp., filed Transmittal Letter No. 97-24, proposing the following: (1) to add Option F (Prism Plus), Option K (Commercial Dial 1 Service), Option R (MCI Preferred), Option V (Advanced Option 1 for Small Business), Option U (MCI Flat Rate Plus), and Option X (Advanced Option II for Small Business) to the Pay phone Use Charge; (2) to grandfather the Guarantee Plan for Option X (Advanced Option II for Small Business; (3) to introduce the Calling Card Plan for Option X (Advanced Option II for Small Business; and (4) to make various text changes. This was a notice item 11/17/97. Staff recommends approval.

3. CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N97.11.211 (Vicki)

On November 3, 1997, Central Montana Communications filed tariff pages adding: a new Internet Access Plan rate for high volume internet users; a special promotion providing a fifty percent reduction in the non-recurring installation charge for a second residential line; and a special promotion schedule exempting the non-recurring charge to add Custom Calling Features.

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. US WEST - Docket N97.11.216 (Bonnie)

On November 12, 1997, US WEST filed Tariff Transmittal 97-38, reducing rates for residence features of Remote Access Forwarding and Scheduled Forwarding.

2. CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS - Docket N97.11.215 (Kate)

On November 12, 1997, Citizens Telecommunications filed proposed tariff changes to introduce Lifeline service for low-income customers in accordance with the Federal Communications Commission's universal service order.

3. SOUTHERN MONTANA TELEPHONE CO. - Docket N97.11.217 (Kate)

On November 12, 1997, Southern Montana Telephone filed tariff changes to bring its Lifeline service for low-income customers into compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's universal service order.

4. MID-RIVERS/U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS - D97.10.208 (Karen)

On October 31, 1997, Mid-Rivers and U S WEST filed a First Amendment to their interconnection agreement. The amendment expands the geographic area covered by the initial interconnection agreement. A work session has been scheduled to review the draft order of approval.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

MPC Docket D96.2.22 - A NSA waiving time to rule on reconsideration was served November 20, 1997

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 97-12-1

Docket N97.11.216 US WEST (Bonnie)

Docket N97.11.215 CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS (Kate)

Docket N97.11.217 SOUTHERN MONTANA TELEPHONE CO. (Kate)

New Filings Received in Past Week

- N97.11.218 Montana Power Trading and Marketing Co - Application for Interim License - Natural Gas
- D97.11.219 MPC Application for Authority to Issue Transition Bonds for the Recovery of Transition Costs Allowed in Docket D96.2.22
- N97.11.220 PTI - Waive non-recurring charge for add'l residential line
- N97.11.221 Commercial Energy of Montana, Inc. - App for Interim License - Natural Gas
- N97.11.222 PTI - Revise LifeLine and Link-Up Service
- D97.11.223 PSC/Lifeline Program - Telephone Discounts